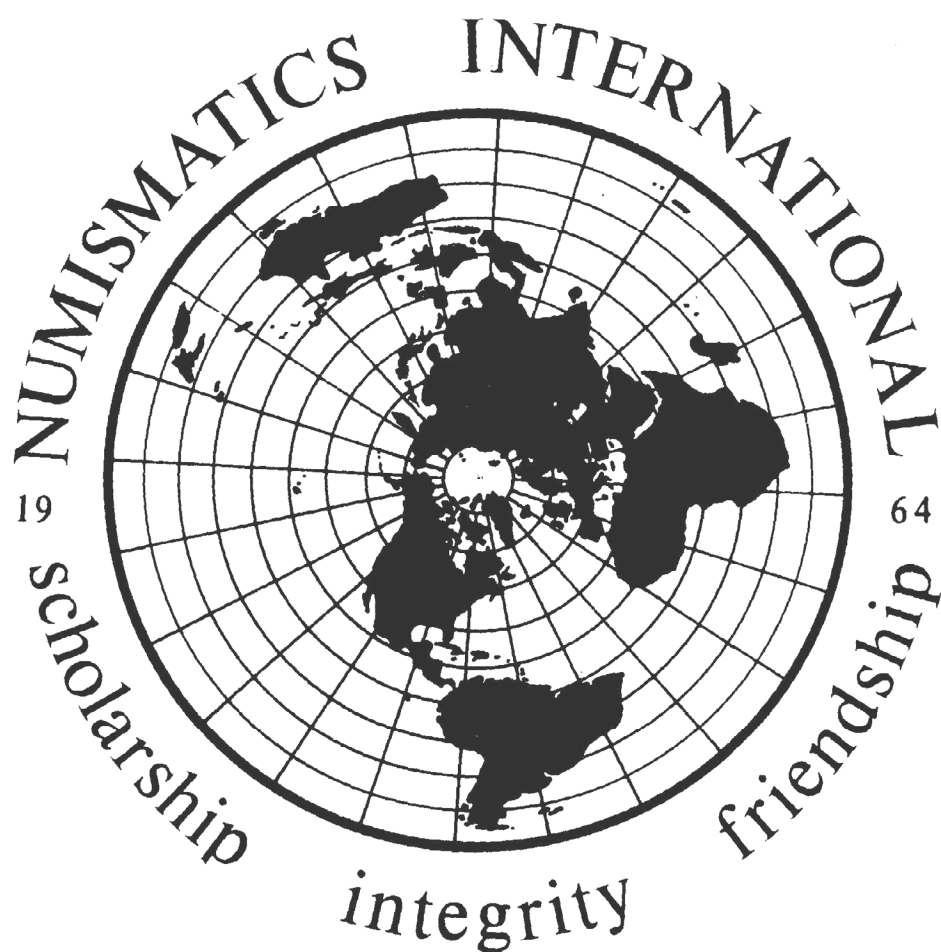


# NI Bulletin

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## From the Editor

The *Bulletin* is a periodical for the NI membership and I favor publishing member articles before publishing other materials. In the most recent twelve months, the period from September 2006 to August 2007, we published 272 pages. Of these there were 24 pages of front covers, outside and inside, leaving 248 pages for content. We had **105 pages of first publication original works by NI members**. We also published 27 pages of NI information (NI news, member notices, book reviews and letters to the editor) and one puzzle. That left 115 pages which were filled with member articles previously published elsewhere, and guest articles, both original and reprint. We published no reprints of NI Bulletin articles; for all articles published it was the first appearance in the *Bulletin*. In order to publish more original member articles, we need more member submissions.



## Membership Report

The following person has applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by December 1, 2007, the membership is effective that day.

2703-MT    Mr. Michael T. Shutterly, P.O. Box 5691, Glen Allen, VA 23058-5691  
(Medieval [especially Byzantine], Roman and Baltic).

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## A Selection of Old Tokens from Mozambique

Paul Baker NI #2615

I was recently given the opportunity of studying a group of tokens that had been found in Mozambique. As this was not a series with which I was familiar, it became a challenge to learn what I could about these pieces, and I'm happy to share my findings with you.

The main reference work, I discovered, was a publication in Portuguese by Carlos Pascoal and Jamie Salgado (1990) *Fichas Coloniais Portuguesas (Portuguese Colonial Tokens)*. I will refer to this as P&S, and their listings are shown as "M" numbers. Most of the tokens were also featured in Brian Hern's *Handbook on Southern African Tokens* (2004), and his references are given as "Hern" numbers.

Sena Sugar Estates Limited was established in 1920, upon the amalgamation of the various companies in which sugar magnate John Peter Hornung played a leading role. Hornung was an Englishman of Hungarian descent. At its founding, the new company was wholly owned by Hornung and his family. The company was based in Sena but had operations in several other towns along the Zambezi. It was a relatively large employer and was involved mainly in the cultivation and processing of sugar cane. This company issued a larger number of tokens, and in greater numbers, than any of the other issuers. Chances are that if you have an old Mozambican token or have handled one, it will have been from the Sena Sugar Estates. P&S put the tokens of this issuer into three groups: (A) the Luabo issues, (B) the Marromeu issues and (C) those issues with no indication of region. P&S also detail how the many tokens had different uses, namely to mark tasks, designate work, pay for food, etc.



**Figure 1**  
**A Marromeu Piece (enlarged 1.5×)**

This Marromeu piece has on its obverse, three central lines "MARCAÇÃO" / "DE" / "TRABALHO" (meaning "marking of work"), surrounded by the company name "SENA" / "SUGAR" / "ESTATES" / "LIMITED" all within a beaded border. The reverse has a large shaded "5" with "MARROMEU" above, all within a toothed border. The piece has a small central hole (apparently as punched after striking), an overall diameter of 26.2 mm and mass of 6.19 grams. It is made from bronze, has a plain edge and is listed as M111 / Hern-538a.





**Figure 2**  
**A Blank Green Triangular Piece**

This blank green piece was with the group of tokens sourced in Mozambique; and even though neither of the references gives it a mention, it was likely issued by Sena Sugar Estates Limited. The piece is made from molded vulcanized rubber; it has a height of 34.5 mm and a central hole of diameter of 4.85 mm. This piece is rather similar to the piece listed by P&S as M104. That piece is of the same color, material and shape; it also has a similar hole. However, M104 is larger, with a height of 43 mm and it has, on one side only, an incuse legend "S S E LTD" and "LUABO" curved around the central hole.

There are quite a number of other types of Sena Sugar Estates Limited tokens. There are some that include a small array of punched holes, some that are brass, some are counter-stamped on old Portuguese bronze coins and others.

"*João Ferreira dos Santos*" was another trading company issuing tokens in Mozambique. The company was established in 1897 and in more recent times it was known as one of Mozambique's largest private agricultural groups. They continue to be involved, on an international scale, with products such as tobacco, tea, sisal and cotton.



**Figure 3**  
**A Large JFS Piece (enlarged 1.5×)**

This large, round, uniface "JFS" piece has a diameter of 39.2 mm and a mass of 12.67 grams. It is made from brass and features large outlined letters "JFS" with textured shading, a rim and a beaded border. The piece has obviously been struck with a die just as a coin would be. The references list this piece as M29 / Hern-304b and also list similar pieces with diameters of 25 mm and 51 mm.



**Figure 4**  
**A triangular JFS piece (enlarged 1.5×)**

This holed, triangular, uniface "JFS" piece has a height of 27.5 mm, a central hole with diameter 3.5 mm, a mass of 3.05 g and is made from brass. The two-lined, incuse stamped legend reads "JFS" / "MOÇAMBIQUE." This piece is listed as M33 / Hern-304f and with a height of 30 mm (a slight cataloging error perhaps). Two other pieces of this style are also listed; one is round (diameter 26 mm) and holed and the other is square (26 mm by 26 mm) and holed.

The two "JFS" pieces illustrated here are examples of two of the three basic types known for this issuer. Pieces of the third type listed in the references are said to be copper, diameter 23 mm, round with central hole and with neither rim nor legend, just an outer serrated circle. According to P&S, it is believed that these tokens were used as labor tokens for dock-workers on the Island of Mozambique and that some of them may date back to the 19th century. Further, the different shapes were used to distinguish different activities as well as different locations (those being Lumbo, Lunga, Mossuril, Saua Saija and Ilha de Mocambique). It is also stated that in 1926 this company owned stores in Mocambique, Memba, Angoche and Ibo; this would suggest retail stores for their various products.



**Figure 5**  
**An Empresa Dos Tabacos Da Beira Ltda 3 Piece (enlarged 1.5×)**



**Figure 6**  
**An Empresa Dos Tabacos Da Beira Ltda 12 Piece (enlarged 1.5×)**

These two similar pieces were issued in the name of "*EMPRESA DOS TABACOS DA BEIRA LTDA*." This name appears on the obverse of each piece, around a large, central "3" on the smaller piece and around a large, central "12" on the larger piece. The issuer's Portuguese name translates as "Beira Tobacco Enterprise Ltd." The obverses also feature a pearly border. The reverse, common to each piece has "MANGA" horizontally and "TABACOS" vertically, so that the first "A" in "MANGA" is used as the second "A" in "TABACOS."

The amounts indicated on these pieces, i.e., 3 and 12, are unlikely to be amounts of money, as normal amounts of money in a decimal system would be such as 5 and 10. Perhaps the two amounts each represent an amount of work done or product produced. Manga is in District Beira, and Beira is the country's second largest city.

The "3" type, listed as M137, Hern-188a, has a diameter of 24.25 mm and a mass of 2.44 g. The "12" type, listed as M138 / Hern-188b, has a diameter of 30.7 mm and a mass of 3.87 g. Both pieces are of aluminum and have a crudely milled edge. P&S state that these tokens were made in England but no further details are given.



**Figure 7**  
**A Green N.P.L. Piece (enlarged 1.5×)**

This piece features nothing but three initials, "N.P.L." The fading, gold-colored incuse lettering is on just one side; the other side of the piece is blank. The token is made from green Bakelite, has a diameter of 25.5 mm, mass 1.17 g, and a hole near to the top as if for storing on a hanger. "N.P.L." was Namagoa Plantations Ltd., District Quelimane. This piece is listed as M71 / Hern-378b. Pieces of the same size and design are also listed made from pink Bakelite and from grey Bakelite.

According to P&S, this company was founded in 1928 after the dissolution of the *Empresa Agricola de Lugela* (Lugela Agricultural Enterprise) and engaged only in sisal cultivation in the Mocuba region. It was dissolved in 1969 when its plantations were sold to the *Companhis do Algodao de Mocambique* (Mozambique Cotton Company). The tokens were issued to the local labor force and were in use between 1928 and 1940.



**Figure 8**  
**Luis I Ten Reis counter-stamped "1" (enlarged)**



**Figure 9**  
**Carlos I Ten Reis counter-stamped "1" (enlarged)**

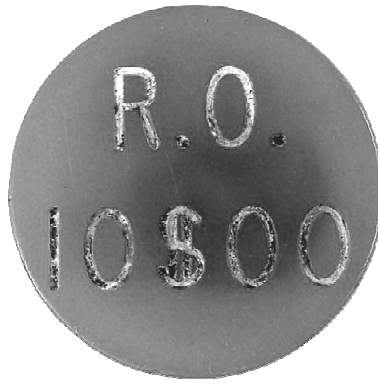
These two Portuguese coins are each counter-stamped "1" on their obverse. These coins are a Ten Reis dated 1883 of type KM-526 (the type of 1882 to 1886, portraying Luis I) and Ten Reis dated 1891 of type KM-532, (the type of 1891 to 1892, portraying Carlos I). These two counter-stamped types are referred to as M143 / Hern-298d and M145 / Hern-298b respectively. This counter-stamp is known not only on dates of these two Ten Reis types but also on the similar Portugal Twenty Reis types KM-527 (the type of 1882 to 1886) and KM-533 (the type of 1891 to 1892). Those two are referred to as M144 / Hern-298c and M146 / Hern-298a respectively.

It is stated in P&S that these tokens have been attributed to "*Missão Católica de Jungamo*," the Catholic Mission at Jungamo in District Inhambane. These are the only tokens known from this district. Around this time education in Mozambique was mainly in the hands of the Roman Catholic missionaries. Portuguese Catholic missionaries had first taken Roman Catholicism to Mozambique in the sixteenth century.



**Figure 10**  
**Casino Belo 100 (enlarged 1.5×)**

This piece features intertwined "C" and "B" on the obverse and "100" on the reverse. The legends are all horizontally shaded. The piece is brass, with a diameter 22.5 mm, a mass 3.52 g, a plain edge, and medallion alignment. It is listed as being from Casino Belo, District Lourenço Marques, M152. Another type, M151, is the same except that it has coin alignment. Both varieties are listed as Hern-50c. The other pieces listed for this casino are a "200" and a "500."



**Figure 11**  
**A Restaurante Oriental Piece (enlarged 1.5×)**

This uniface piece of green plastic features nothing but a white, incuse two-line legend "R. O." / "10\$00." The piece has a diameter of 24.6 mm and a mass of 1.58 g. The denomination is Ten Escudos, "10\$00" being exactly how that denomination appeared on Mozambique's coins of Ten Escudos back then. This piece is attributed to Restaurante Oriental, Lourenço Marques and numbered M178 / Hern-406a. Other similar pieces listed are of 0\$50, 1\$00, 2\$50 and 5\$00, each with different coloring and with denominations per the coinage. The city of Lourenço Marques was the name of Mozambique's capital city. As a result of independence, this Portuguese name was changed in 1976 to the native name of Maputo.

According to P&S, this restaurant was located in Rua Consiglieri Peichoto. It seems that the shortage of small change from 1971 onwards caused difficulties which the owners tried to solve by issuing plastic tokens. These were used in-house between the waiters and the cashier.

This interesting group of tokens was kindly submitted by Mr. Hilmar J. Herzberg, who came across them during 2006. Should any readers be able to add to the background story of any of these pieces, then I would be very interested to hear from you. As with any token, much interest centers on how, when and where they were used. With the passing years, unless recorded, this vital information is often lost to future generations. Any additional snippets of information we can glean on the issue or the issuers add to the fascination of the story these pieces have to tell.



**Gazette and Gazetta**  
**Howard Ford NI #LM90**

A newspaper has frequently been referred to as a gazette, and this word still does appear with some frequency in the names of certain newspapers. The term probably developed from the Italian word "*gazetta*," which referred to a small coin used in Venice in the eighteenth century. The price of a newspaper at that time was one gazetta. The government tried to control the dissemination of news and would not allow it to be printed, so it was written out by hand and either sold for a gazetta or read aloud to anyone who had a gazetta for payment (<http://spamula.net/col/archives/2005/02/originofnewspapershtml>). The word for the coin seems to have become the word for the product purchased by the coin.



## The Mystery of the Missing Number

### Bill Mullan NI #1040

A missing number in Krause-Mishler's *Standard Catalog of World Coins* first came to my attention when I counted up all of the Five, Ten, and Twenty Mark commemoratives of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in a current issue and found that I was one short of the total indicated by the assigned catalog numbers.

I have been buying East German coins as they come my way, and I put them in plastic pages, twenty to a page in order of their numbers. I knew what ones were missing because the empty pockets on the pages called out to me every time I looked at the pages. The coins I had plus those that were missing agreed with the catalog number count of 123 but the total of forty-six Five Mark coins plus forty-three Ten Mark plus thirty-three Twenty Mark comes only to 122. In my old age I had lost my ability to count!

The first break came when I started a massive database, recording the catalog values of all the coins of East Germany as listed in the various issues of the *World Catalog*. I began with the first edition, so it was a while before I came to a book that listed KM #117. The coin designated KM #117 was in its proper pocket for I had immediately bought the coin and placed it where it belonged. The 1989 catalog did not have a KM #117 nor did any subsequent issues: 117 had gone into limbo. Having pinned down the missing number I now had to find out why it was missing.



Berlin-Brandenburg Gate					
117	1987	271,000	—	—	4.00
	1987	4,200	—	Proof	25.00

**Figure 1**  
**From listing in Krause -Mishler 1988 edition.**

The answer can be found in the 1988 issue of the catalog. In 1987 the GDR had for the first time reissued the Brandenburg-Gate Five Mark coin for circulation. The 1988 catalog listing printed above shows a mintage of 271,000, but current issues give the mintage as 220,000. Small numbers had been struck for mint sets and proof sets in the years 1979 through 1986, but before 1987 none had been struck for general circulation. The re-issued coin was given the number 117. Figure one is a copy of the

listing as printed in the book. Sorry about the distortion of the picture of the reverse, I couldn't get the catalog to lie flat on my scanner. I am never quite sure which side of a coin is the obverse, but I have referred to the side with the coat of arms as the obverse throughout my articles on the coins of the GDR.

The first question is whether the coin I bought as KM #117 is the same type coin that is pictured in the catalog? Figure two compares my coin with the illustration from the *World Coin Catalog*. Obviously they are different coins. Is there a mule of the Brandenburg-Gate coin that was pictured in the catalog? Or do I have the mule?



**Figure 2**  
**Left half: KM #117 as illustrated. Right half: Coin I bought as KM #117**

That assignment of KM #117 to the coin was subsequently reconsidered so the coin in all later issues of the catalog is included with KM #29. Figure one shows the arms of the GDR are slightly off center, a little closer to the lettering along the upper edge of the coin than it is at the sides and bottom. On the other hand, on the obverse of KM #29 the arms are very nearly concentric with the lettering.

The second question arises as to whether the coin I bought as KM #117 is the same as KM #29. Figure three compares two coins, both of which are now called KM #29. On the left is my 1987 coin; while on the right is my 1971 coin. Once again the answer is no.

They are not identical, especially in the area of the lower part of the arms. Should we work to bring back #117 or is it gone forever?





**Figure 3**  
**Left half: KM #117. Right half: KM #29**

The third question is did someone mix up the photographs used in the publication of the catalog? Is the published picture really of a KM #117 or is it another coin from the same time period? There were three other Five Mark coins minted in 1987 KM #114, #115, and #116. In the first two the arms are obviously off center so they could not be the source of the mix-up. The other one (KM #116) has a more concentric arrangement. That could very well have resulted in a mix-up among the photographs. Could the photograph of the obverse of KM #116, the Universal Time Clock in Berlin, have been used for KM #117 by mistake? While the two pictures are quite similar, there are enough differences at the top of the arms to prove they are not both pictures of the same coin.



**Figure 4**  
**Left half: KM #117. Right half: KM #116**

I can't imagine that a mule with a date of 1987 did not involve a coin die already bearing the 1987. Thus, in my thinking, I have eliminated the possibility that the date on the obverse from some earlier coin was altered to produce the coin shown in the catalog as KM #117.

Having eliminated all of the possible candidates for a photo mix-up we are left with the possibility presented earlier in this article. Is the picture in the catalog actually a mule, and if so, what coin is it muled with?

There is one more possibility. Since some of the copper-nickel Five Mark coins were so brilliant, I made aluminum foil impressions of the them for photographing. (This technique of making the foil substitutes was discussed in an article I wrote for the *NI Bulletin* November 1975, pp.327-334 and August 1976, p. 283.) The foil impressions exaggerate the thickness of the lettering somewhat, but the general geography of the coin would not be altered, so I don't think the use of foil impressions explains the apparent differences shown in figures two through four.

Anyone have an answer to these questions?

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*NI*

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**Mexico City Foundry, "Plus Ultra" Countermark  
Ponterio & Associates NI #1221**



(Image not actual size)  
Cut fragment from Mexico City foundry bar

This silver piece was cut from an early to mid 1500s Mexico City foundry bar. At 33.16 g it would have a commercial value of 10 reales. The countermark is a representation of a Charles V design of the "Pillars of Hercules" with the motto "PLVS VLTRA" and a bearded head (which must be Charles V—*Ed.*), foundry mark "M" below. From Ponterio Auction 143, September 25 & 26, 2007, lot 1104 (The 1554 Plate Fleet).

*NI*

## A Medal of St. Rita & St. Clare

Bob Forrest NI #2382

The unusual Belgian aluminum medal shown twice actual size in Figure 1, and which looks to date from the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, relates, as its reverse tells us, to the BROEDERSCHAP VAN DE H.H. RITA EN CLARA (the Brotherhood of Saints Rita and Clare) of KONTICH, a town some five miles south of Antwerp, though the medal itself was made in France, as the obverse exergue indicates.

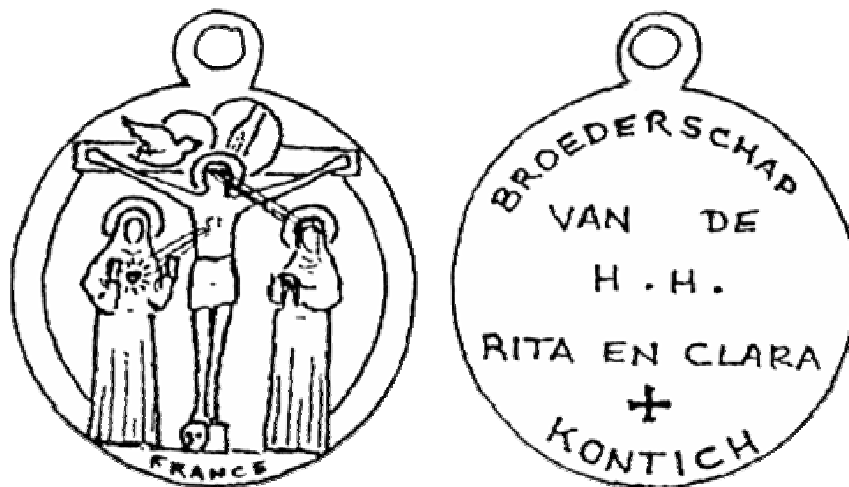


Figure 1

The Brotherhood of St. Rita of Cascia and St. Clare of Montefalco is an Augustinian sodality whose members put themselves under the special protection of these two saints (both were Augustinian nuns). The members "achieve unity through prayer."<sup>1</sup> Each Thursday throughout the year a mass is offered for the well-being of the said members. In addition, there is a special mass for every member on his/her death, and each November there is a mass for all departed members. But our concern here is not so much with the Brotherhood as with the fascinating iconography of its medal.

It depicts the crucified Christ with the haloed Dove of the Holy Spirit to the upper left and a haloed Hand of God to the upper right. The Hand of God appears to be holding or putting in place the halo around Christ's head. Be that as it may, we have here the Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

To the left of the Cross stands St. Clare of Montefalco, rays of light streaming from Christ's heart to hers. On the right of the Cross stands St. Rita of Cascia, rays of light streaming from Christ's head to hers.

Now these two saints are not normally associated with each other at all, and they are brought together here simply because this brotherhood had a twin reverence for them. But they do have something in common besides both being Augustinian nuns, for both were stigmatics, as the medal is indicating symbolically.

St. Clare of Montefalco (ca.1268-1308) is said to have had a vision of Christ in which

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<sup>1</sup> My information on the Brotherhood was supplied by the Prior of the Paters Augustijnen of Kontich, to whom my thanks are due.

he said to her, "I have sought a place in the world where I might plant my Cross, and have found no better site than your heart." She told her fellow nuns of her experience, and after her death they took the somewhat macabre step of taking out her heart and dissecting it. Revealed were "clearly distinguishable"<sup>2</sup> images of various Symbols of the Passion,<sup>3</sup> all formed out of cardiac tissue, among them a small image of Christ on the Cross (said to be "about the size of one's thumb"), a scourge, the pillar of the scourging, the lance, the sponge-tipped reed, the Crown of Thorns and the Three Nails. The heart, which is said to be "incorrupt," is today in the Church of S. Chiara da Montefalco, enclosed in a bust of the saint, and visible through a crystal window in her chest. I regret I have never seen it myself,<sup>4</sup> but critics say that the tissues of the heart present variegated surfaces of blood vessels and muscle tissue, and that if you poke about in them for long enough with the eye of faith you can find more or less anything you want, just as you can find faces and animal forms in the folds of the bark of a tree if you look at it long enough and let your imagination roam free. Well, maybe yes, maybe no. The matter might be settled by poking about in an ordinary non-saintly heart for comparison, but being of a somewhat squeamish disposition, I'd be reluctant to do this even if I could lay my hands on a human heart. Be that as it may, a print of St. Clare receiving these marks in her heart is shown in Figure 2.

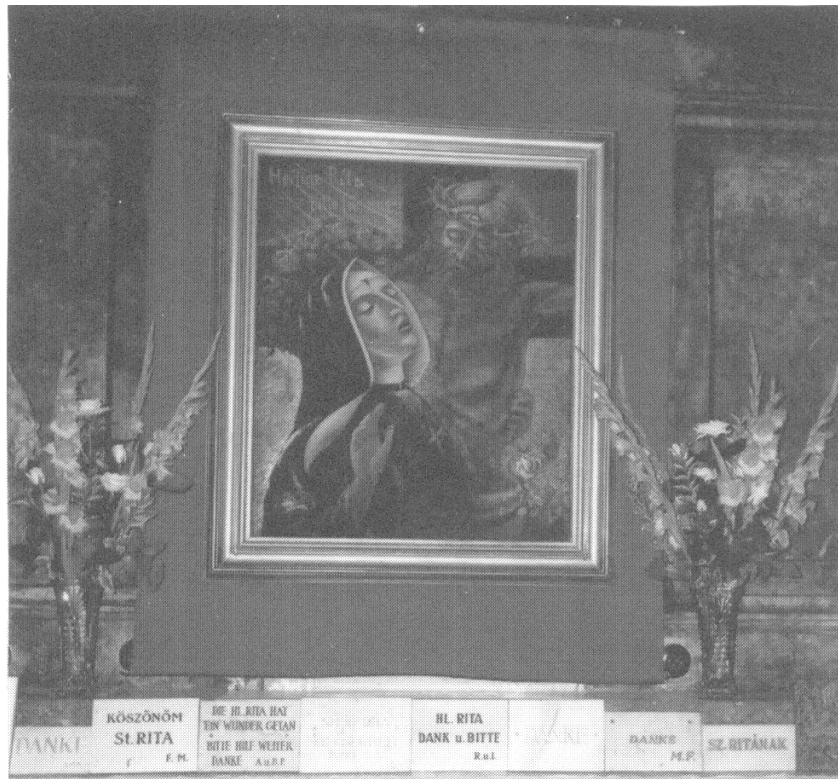


**Figure 2**

<sup>2</sup> Joan Carroll Cruz, *Mysteries, Marvels, Miracles in the Lives of the Saints* (1997), p. 72.

<sup>3</sup> For background, see "Symbols of the Passion" in *NI Bulletin*, January 2000, pp. 17-25.

<sup>4</sup> A delightful account of St. Clare's "incorrupt" body and of her dissected heart can be found in Anneli Rufus, *Magnificent Corpses* (1999), pp. 63-70. Mrs. Rufus tells us that the marks on St. Clare's heart "have not withstood the test of time" and that "today it looks like any ordinary disembodied organ, cut in two and brown with age" (p. 69).



**Figure 3**

As for St. Rita of Cascia (1381-1457), it is said that following a sermon on Christ's Passion, with particular emphasis on the Crown of Thorns, she prostrated herself before a crucifix and asked to be allowed to share in the pain of the thorns. Her prayer was answered; and she felt a painful sting in her forehead, "like an arrow of love flung by Jesus."<sup>5</sup> In time the resulting wound festered and became such a source of revulsion to her fellow nuns that for the last fifteen years of her life she remained in her cell locked in divine contemplation while suffering terrible pain.

A painting of St. Rita receiving the thorn-mark on her forehead is shown in Figure 3. This painting is to be found in the Augustinerkirche in Vienna. Note the votive plaques below, offering thanks to the saint for her help, for St. Rita is the patron saint of desperate causes—particularly matrimonial problems—a patronage which is based on her life before she became a nun. (She was apparently forced by her parents into a marriage to a violent and unfaithful man, by whom she had two sons. After suffering eighteen years of marriage to this man, he was murdered in a vendetta, an event which not so much solved Rita's problems, as deepened them, for her sons swore to avenge their father's death. Rita prayed that her sons might die before they committed murder, and her prayers were answered, for both were struck down by a fatal illness.)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Cruz pp. 222-3.

<sup>6</sup> Elizabeth Hallam, *Saints* (1994), pp. 95-6.



Figure 4

Another medal showing St. Rita is shown in 1½ times actual size in Figure 4. This is aluminum, probably of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date, and though it turned up in Belgium, it is probably of Italian origin. This is the more usual type of medallic representation of St. Rita alone before the crucifix, the contemplation of which led to the festering thorn-wound.

St. Rita appears in conjunction with St. Clare again on the modern Spanish aluminum medal shown 1½ times actual size in Figure 5. St. Rita appears on the obverse, contemplating the Cross again, a Crown of Thorns being placed on her head by two tiny angels, and with the legend *SANTA RITA DE CASIA R.P.N.*, St. Rita of Casia (Spanish spelling) pray for us (*rogad por nos*). St. Clare appears on the reverse, showing her heart impressed with the sign of the Cross, and with the legend *SANTA CLARA DE MONTEFALCO R.P.N.* = St. Clare of Montefalco pray for us. I would guess that this medal, like the one in Figure 1, relates to some Augustinian organization, though there is nothing to indicate this on the medal.



Figure 5

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**Coins of Tibet**  
**Sho-gang/Srang Coinage System: 1/8 Sho-gang**  
**Gilbert Richardson and Adam Green**

In 1904, His Holiness, the thirteenth Dalai Lama, fled from Lhasa because a British expedition, under Colonel Younghusband, had forced its way through the Chumbi Valley towards Lhasa. The Dalai Lama returned to Lhasa in 1909 after spending five years in Mongolia and China, where he must have had opportunities to study China's efforts to reform its coinage. He probably saw new machines striking crown-sized silver coins, observed the issuing of paper money, the funding of banks and other financial institutions. It is likely that during this period the Dalai Lama conceived the idea of reforming the Tibetan monetary system. On his return to his homeland, the Dalai Lama ordered the opening of the mint at Dode in the valley bearing the same name about ten km northeast of Lhasa, where the machinery was operated by water-power.

This new monetary reform of the thirteenth Dalai Lama began in 1909 and ended in 1953. The monetary system is based upon the Tibetan system of weights using Chinese decimal sub-divisions:

Ten 'on= One *sKar*

Ten *sKar* = One *Sho-gang* (Chinese *Miscal* or *Chi'ien*)

Ten *Sho* = One *dNgul-srang* or Chinese tael (*liang*) = ounce = approximately 37 g.

The new monetary reform is referred to as "Sho-gang/Srang Coinage System." This system has been broken down into six "Coinage Series" as noted below.

First Coinage Series Yr. 1 (1909)

Wheel type design minted in the name of Hsuan Tung

Second Coinage Series

Snow lion design (1909)

Third Coinage Series (1913-1919)

Fourth Coinage Series (1918-1930)

Fifth Coinage Series (1932-1946)

Sixth Coinage Series (1947-1953)

**First Coinage Series (1909)**

"Wheel Type" design minted in the name of Hsuan Tung, the last Emperor of the Manchu Dynasty. The new series included a *Srang* valued at six and two-thirds *Tangkas* and weighing just over a half *Nyul Srang*; a five *Sho* piece to the same standard; and also denominations expressed as fractions of a *Sho-gang*, 1/4 and 1/8.

## Classification code arrangement for First Coinage Series (1909)

T10: 1/8 Sho-gang Yr. 1 (1909) KM #Y-A7

T11: 1/4 Sho-gang Yr. 1 (1909) KM #Y-B7

T12: Five Sho Yr. 1 (1909) KM #Y-8

T13: One Srang Yr. 1 (1909) KM #Y-9

### 1/8 Sho-gang

The classification of the 1/8 Sho-gang is the result of a detailed study of seven coins. There are two types, distinguished by the arc between the florets on the reverse side: Type I high arc, Type II low arc. (The low arc would be a segment of a larger diameter circle—*Ed.*)



Type I, High Arc



Type I, Low Arc



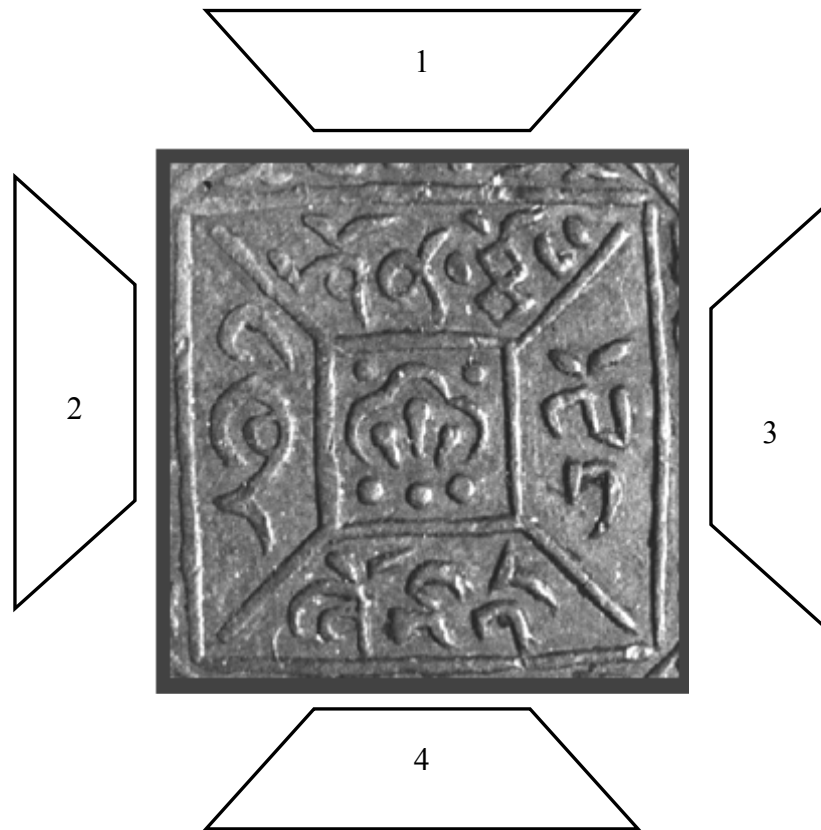
Type I, Code T10.1

1/8 Sho-gang, Yr. 1 (1909), Dode mint.

Copper, plain edge, 21.6 mm diameter, 1.4 mm thick, mass 4.01 g

**Obverse:** A small square in the center with one bead in each upper corner encloses the "Wish-Granting Jewel" (*Tib. Norbu*). A larger square with four diagonal lines to the corners of the small square forms four quadrangles in which Tibetan script is inscribed. Outside the large square is a 16.0 mm diameter circle which forms four segments, each containing a rosette of seven beads and two scrolls. Between the circle and rim are eight stars. The Tibetan script reads:





1. Script: *Shon-thong*. Tibetan pronunciation of the Manchu Emperor Hsuan Tung
2. *Khri*, pronounced as 'Thri'
3. Year One
4. Shon-thong period One, Value

**Reverse:** Type I. Starting in the center, two very small circles are followed by eight oblong beads enclosed by the third circle (diameter 5.0 mm). Between the third and fourth circle (diameter 8.0 mm) are eight small beads. Between the fourth and fifth circle (diameter 16.8 mm) are eight separate florets containing Tibetan script. The eight florets are connected at top by an arc with a bead. Outside the fifth circle are eight stars placed equidistant apart. The Tibetan script reads: *dga'-ldan-pho-bran-phyod-las-rnam-rgyal*, meaning "The Ga-den Palace, victorious in all directions."



**Type II Code T10.2**  
**Type II**

**Obverse/ Reverse:** Same as T10.1 except Low arc with bead between the eight florets.

### Summary Distribution by Type

"T" Code	Type	No. varieties	No. of Duplicates	Total Pieces
10.1	I	1	0	1
10.2	II	1	5	6
Total		2	5	7

### Metrics

No. of Coins	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Std. Deviation	Range of Mean at 95% Confidence
7	3.45 g	4.43 g	3.85 g	0.36 g	3.13-4.57 g
Average diameter is 21.6 mm, average thickness is 1.1 mm					

### X-Ray Mini Quantitative Analysis

"T" Code	Cu	Zn	Fe	Pb	Sn
10.1	97.0	-	.073	.301	.262
10.2	97.2	-	-	-	.262

A silver striking of this coin exists and is attributed as an off-metal strike.

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**<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/numismatics/>**

***Oko-gin* Silver Coins for Import of Korean Ginseng**  
**A Two-Tiered Pricing System for Silver Coins**  
Noriko Fujii, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan



***Oko-gin* (1710)**

***Hoei Yotsuho Cho-gin* (1711)**

**Images not actual size**

On the Oko-gin coins an image of the god of wealth and the Chinese character [寶] (*takara*: treasure) are stamped numerous times over the face. Because this coin was minted exclusively for the purpose of trade with Korea, its quality was significantly higher than other cho-gin (with a silver content of 20-50 percent) circulating during the same period and comparable to that of the *Keicho* Cho-gin silver coin, which was minted from 1601 with a fineness of 0.80.

Silver coins were debased four times in five years beginning in 1706. The poorest-quality cho-gin, with a silver content of merely 20 percent, was called the Hoei Yotsuho Cho-gin. The Chinese character [宝] (*ho*: treasure) within a circle was stamped four times on its face.

The *Tsushima* clan used cho-gin to pay for imports of Korean ginseng and Chinese raw silk, but the Hoei Cho-gin was rejected by the Koreans because of its inferior quality compared with the *keicho* Cho-gin. In 1710, therefore, the Tokugawa Shogunate approved the minting of a high-quality, 80 percent fine, cho-gin for use exclusively in trade with Korea, on the argument that the import of Korean ginseng was indispensable for medical treatment.

The Tokugawa Shogunate adopted measures to prevent the outflow of silver coins in payment of trade in the 1660s. Owing to strong domestic demand for high-quality Chinese raw silk, however, the outflow of silver, a trade commodity, could not be halted. As a result of the withdrawal of the Dutch trading houses from Taiwan in

1662, the Taiwan-Nagasaki import route for white raw silk, the finest type of Chinese raw silk, was replaced by the Tsushima-Korea route, with the Tsushima domain as the mediator. By the end of the 17th century, the outflow of silver coins to China had dwindled, but the Tsushima-Korea and Satsuma-Ryukyu routes remained as channels for the outflow of silver. The main channel was the Tsushima-Korea route.

It is said that a massive volume of silver amounting to 1.1 million *kan* (1 *kan* = 3.75 kg—*Ed.*) of Keicho cho-gin, approximately three-quarters of the silver coins and silver produced in Japan, drained out of the country during the 100 years following the Keicho Era (1596-1614). Meanwhile, in response to the plunge in silver production, the shogunate debased the quality and weight of gold and silver coins as a means of financing fiscal deficits and to overcome the shortage of silver during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Silver coins were debased four times between 1704 and 1711, with the silver content of the Yotsuho cho-gin, the most inferior coin, dropping to 20 percent.

The shogunate continued to use the debased cho-gin in trade with Korea via the Tsushima domain. But once the drastic re-coinages had lowered the silver content of the coin below 50 percent, the cho-gin lost its credibility as an international currency, and the Korean side rejected it as a means of payment. This crisis caused the price of indispensable Korean ginseng to soar, leading the shogunate to decide for political reasons to permit the minting of the cho-gin a high-quality (80 percent fine) silver coin, for exclusive use in the Korean trade.

The minting of silver coins exclusively for purposes of trade suggests the introduction of a price discrimination policy for silver, with differing prices at home and abroad. It was possible for the shogunate to implement such a policy because it had sole control of gold and silver.

The oko-gin was minted for roughly five years. A re-coinage in 1714 restored the quality of silver coins, thus obviating the need for the production of high-quality silver coins exclusively for trade; minting of the oko-gin was accordingly suspended. Production of the coin was resumed after re-coinage, in 1736, debased the quality of silver coins yet again; but with the development of domestic supplies of raw silk, sugar, and Korean ginseng in the latter half of the 18th century, the oko-gin lost its purpose and its production was discontinued.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.

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